

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 374

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team on an outstanding 2006-07 season.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) women's basketball team is one such estimable sports team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2006-07 season, establishing a school record with thirty wins and an overall mark of thirty wins against just four losses; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders won their first ever Sun Belt regular season title, posting a conference record of eighteen wins and no losses in the regular season and twenty-one victories and no losses versus Sun Belt competition overall; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders defeated South Alabama (79-52) and Denver (76-50) before taking care of Louisiana-Lafayette (77-67) in the championship game to claim its fourth straight Sun Belt Tournament title; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight season and won a first round game for the third time in four years; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Rick Insell was voted Sun Belt Coach of the Year, his first such honor and the first such accolade for a Middle Tennessee head coach in twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University's women's basketball team includes Chrissy Givens, Krystle Horton, Carden Cobb, Whitney Tate, Amber Holt, Lakira Boyd, Starr Orr, Latoya Barclay, Johnna Abney, Brandi Brown, Angelique Burtts, Jackie Pickel, and Chelsia Lymon; and

WHEREAS, senior Chrissy Givens was voted Sun Belt Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, and SBC Tournament Most Outstanding Player for the second straight season. She was also named Second Team All-American by the Associated Press and to the All-America team by the United States Basketball Writers Association, thus earning the first ever All-American honors for a Middle Tennessee player. Givens was voted the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American of the Year by the College Sports Information Directors of America and became the first ever Blue Raider player drafted by the WNBA, when she was taken 31st overall by the Phoenix Mercury; and

WHEREAS, junior Amber Holt was voted First Team All-Sun Belt, Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year, and was named to the SBC All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, senior Krystle Horton was voted Second Team All-Sun Belt, thus earning all-conference honors all four seasons of her career, and also earned SBC All-Tournament accolades; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee led the Sun Belt Conference with an average attendance of 4,157 per game and ranked 26th nationally in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders set a single-game attendance record with 10,010 in attendance at the season opener against Maryland; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the able leadership of Head Coach Rick Insell, the Middle Tennessee women's team benefited from the hard work and guidance of Assistant Coaches Kevin McMillan, Myra Fishback, Alli Clark, and Todd Hodges; Managers Allison Bradley, Lana Spry, Joseph Bonham, and Randa Brown; and Athletic Trainer Allison Ness; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee has won 20 or more games for four seasons in a row, won four straight Sun Belt Tournament titles, and posted four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances; and

WHEREAS, the members of the MTSU women's basketball team epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition and in academics. The perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team and specially recognize their extraordinary achievements, both on and off the basketball court, as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of America; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the coaches, staff, and members of the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team on a very successful 2006-07 season and we wish the Blue Raiders well in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.